[श्री कैलाश नारायण सारंग]

किया गया । इसके पूर्व भोपाल में शाहजहानाबाद और अन्य मोहल्लों से बहुत ही बारूदी सामग्री प्राप्त हुई है।

महोदया, मैं आपके माध्यम से गृह मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं कि कुछ शरारती तत्व उग्रवादी तत्व देश के विभिन्न भागों में विस्फोटक सामग्री पहुंचाने का प्रयास कर रहे हैं । अगर समय रहते इस बारे में सर्तकता के साथ कार्रवाई नहीं की गई तो किसी भी समय विस्फोट की स्थिति पैदा हो सकती है। मेरा गृह मंत्री जी से आपके माध्यम से अनुरोध है कि वह इस बारे में भोपाल के आसपास और भोपाल शहर के बारे में क्या वस्तुस्थिति है, बयान देकर सदन को अवगत करायें ।

श्री लक्खीराम अग्रवाल (मध्य प्रदेश) : मैं भी इससे अपनी सहमति प्रकट करता हूं । यह गंभीर मसला है । माननीय गृह मंत्री जी को इस संबंध में बयान देना चाहिए ।

PANIC AMONG FARMERS OF ANDHRA PRADESH OVER AUCTIONING OF THEIR GOLD ORNAMENTS BY NATIONALISED BANK

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, the cotton growers of Andhra Pradesh, particularly in the districts of Guntur and Prakasam, find themselves once again in an extremely serious and distressing situation today which requires the immediate attention and redressal from the Government.

Madam, it is a fact that about thirty thousand cotton growers in these two districts had taken loans against gold from the nationalised banks and could not repay their loans. Now the day of reckoning seems to have arrived for them. These farmers are panicky as one bank after the other is issuing notices to them about auctioning of their jewellery and ornaments. You know pretty well that it has become a touchy issue since most of the gold pledged with the banks consits of "Mangal Sutras" of the farmers' the farmers' wives, mothers or sisters the Hindu women consider as very secred. But auctions are going on every day and it is a fact that during 1987-88, because of the sentimental issue of auctioning of gold ornaments by the nationalised banks, more than 100 cotton growers in these districts committed suicide and the Government did not come out with any proposal to solve this problem.

Madam, in these two districts, per acre production went down and the cost of cultivation went up and, as if to add to their injury, the prices of cotton also went down at least by 50 per cent. So, the cotton growers are not in a position to pay back the loans to the nationalised banks and, therefore, this serious situation has arisen now. I would like to appeal to the Government to do something. Mr. Balaram Jakhar, the Minister of Agriculture, is sitting here now and he claims always to be farmer-friendly. But, right under his nose, auctioning of gold ornaments is taking place.

You know pretty well that the Andhra Bank, which was started by the late Pattabhi Sharameyya, the then President of the AICC, swindled money to the tune of more than Rs. 1700 crores for Fair Growth and they are not in a position to recover the loans. But, at the same time, the Andhra Bank people are auctioning jewellery items of seven or eight grams each, and the Finance Ministry or the Agriculture Ministry is not showing any concern about it. I think the Finance Minister is walking out of the House just now. Anyhow, I would like to request the Government to see that some instructions are issued from here so that the interest component may be waived as far as the mall gold ornaments are concerned which are pledged with the banks by the farmers. Uuless this is done. I am very much afraid that mass suicides will take place, as it happened a couple of years ago.

Once again this will take place and I hope that Mr. Balram Jakhar will react to this.

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, I associate myself with this...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER (Haryana): Madam, I associate myself with this. The farmers are being looted of their gold for no fault of theirs.... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA (Bihar): Madam, I associate myself with this... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I also associate myself (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI MISA R. GANESAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I also associate myself (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL (Gujarat): Madam, I am associating myself...(*Interruptions*)...I have a suggestion to make...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV (Uttar Pradesh): मैं भी इसका समर्थन करता हूं । (व्यवधान)

SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Madam, the Minister of Agriculture, Shri Balram Jakhar is here. Let him respond; let him react...(*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have counted how many people are concerned ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Madam, I have a suggestion to make.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is a suggestion from a Member. Let him be heard.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Madam, the gold of those farmers who have suffered in the natural calamities should not be auctioned That gold should be converted into Gold Bonds and kept with the Government. They should be given some time to repay the loans, but their gold should not be auctioned ...(Interruptions).

उपसभापति : यह मामला फाइनेंस मिनिस्ट्री का है, एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्ट्री का थोड़े ही है ।

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA (Uttar Pradesh): Madam, what is the reaction of the Minister? He is sitting here. (*Interruptions*).

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): It can be taken care of by the State Government. They can waive it. They can change the term of the loan from short term to medium term or long term. It can be done by the State Government, I think.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: The gold is pledged with the nationalised banks... (Interruptions).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, please. The Minister for Agriculture has a soft corner for the farmer which is expected of him. But the matter is of the Finance Ministry. And I am sure, your sentiments will be conveyed to the Minister of Finance. (*Interruptions*). Now, that is over Mr. Muthu Mani.

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल (राजस्थान) : कम से कम वे आश्वासन तो दे दें कि उनका सोना निलाम नहीं किया जाएगा ।

उपसभापति : वे आश्वासन नहीं दे सकते हैं, मगर उन्होंने कह दिया है । जिसका डिपार्टमेंट है वह तो समझकर जवाब देंगे, ये कैसे दे सकते हैं । यह बात उन्होंने कही है कि उनको पहुंचा

देंगे ...(व्यवधान)। मान साहब आप भी बैठ जाइये, और अग्रवाल जी आप बैठ जाइये। आपके पास कोई सजेशन हो तो मंत्री जी को लिखकर भेज दीजिए।

SHRI ASHIS SEN (West Bengal): I have got a suggestion, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Muthu Mani.

SHRI ASHIS SEN: Will you permit me, Madam? I have a suggestion to make.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You may write to the Minister.

DEMANDS OF WORKERS OF PUBLIC SECTOR UNDERTAKINGS

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI (Tamil Nadu): Madam, through this Special Mention, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the demands of the workers of the Central public sector undertakings. I personally know their difficulties, Madam, since I am connected with them as the General Secretary of the Anna Thozir Sanga Peravai, which is affiliated to the All India Anna DMK.

Madam, today most of the employees working in the Central public sector undertakings are deprived of the bonus benefit due to an out-dated ceiling on bonus under the Payment of Wages Act. The salaries of all staff have gone up, and even senior Class-IV employees have become non-eligible for bonus due to increase in their salary and also the limit fixed for bonus which is Rs. 2500. The annual bonus should be given to all employees regardless of their status and salary. All employees contributing to an increase in productivity should have a right for a share in the profits or gains of the organisations. Therefore, Madam, I request the Government to remove this out-dated ceiling to enable all the employees to get bonus. I also urge upon the Government to enhance the bonus rate from 8.33 per cent to 12 per cent. The minimum bonus rate of 8.33 per cent was fixed two decades before, as per the recommendations of the Bonus Review Committee. Over the years, the value of rupee has been steadily eroding and the minimum bonus of 8.33 per cent has lost all its relevance. Hence, there is a need to revise it to 12 per cent.

Madam, the hon. Labour Minister has laid a statement before the House on 16-3-1993, and it is stated in that statement that 50 per cent of the arrears of IDA due for the period from 1-1-1989 to 31-12-1991 would be credited to the Provident Fund. This is very unfair. The Government should pay the arrears in cash with interest.

Madam, during the meeting held between the Minister of State for Labour and the representaties of various trade unions on 3-6-1992, it was agreed to by the Labour Minister to withdraw the directive issued earlier to all Central public sector undertakings not to enter into any fresh agreement with the trade unions or any negotiation or commitment, paving the way for negotiations or agreements with the trade unions by the Central public sector undertakings. Now, it is also said in the Minister's statement that the new wage settlement should be for a period of five years. It should be reduced to three years. Further, the new wage agreement should take retrospective effect right from the date of expiry of the old settlement.

The pension scheme announced by the Government will not satisfy the workers of the Public-sector undertakings since it has not been demanded by them. The proposed pension scheme will be a third benefit as demanded by the employees, in addition to the benefits they are already getting. The scheme must be extended to all the private sector employees also.

It has been the demand of several trade unions before the Government to enhance the Income-Tax exemption limit to Rs. 60,000/-. As stated already, the